The A. Fred L. Weekly News Service gives news' accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and reviews other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1628 WILLIAM GREEN, President GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 25

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1942

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Our faith in democracy has just been revitalized. Even the Navy is responding to the call of the people.

Ever since America got into the war with both feet, we've been squawking loudly and bitterly about the Navy's stupid labor policies. We begged and pleaded for a little cooperation. But the Navy brass hats still continued business in the usual autocratic way.

Recently the War Production Board's labor division and other Federal agencies sponsored a labor-management conference in New York City which we attended. At this meeting we got up on our hind legs and complained about the Navy all over again, but without much hope of accomplishing anything.

But we were over-pessimistic. For apparently one of the Government officials present took our criticisms back to Washington and saw to it that the Navy Department was fully informed.

And, instead of being court-martialled, we were invited to go down to see one of the top officials of the Navy Department and have a heart-to-heart talk with him. We accepted.

The Navy Agrees

Without mincing words, we spoke our pieces. We stated in blunt language that the Navy's brass hats acted like slave-drivers, that the worst employers in private industry were Timid Souls compared with some Navy Admirals.

We pointed out that labor was only too anxious to collaborate with the Navy but that such collaboration could not be obtained by crack-the-whip methods. We urged that the Navy show some consideration for the workers and the trade unions that represent them. A more helpful and considerate attitude must be shown by the Navy, we insisted, to get results. And to prove that cooperation gets results, we cited the example of the Army's fine relations with labor and the splendid labor relations work done by Col. Ginsburgh's office.

Believe it or not, the high-ranking Navy official to whom we addressed those sharp remarks did not hit the ceiling. Instead, he agreed with everything we said. He even expressed keen disappointment over the Navy's poor labor relations. He said that we were entirely justified in our criticisms of some Admirals. These would be promptly ironed out, he promised and a new policy established.

We then proceeded to discuss ways and means in a general way.

Almost immediately things began to happen.

The Navy Acts

First came the announcement that Edwin A. Lahey, columnist for the Chicago *Daily News*, had been appointed special assistant to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Board. Lahey has put in years as a labor reporter. He knows labor's viewpoint thoroughly, understands labor, but his heart is in the right place. He has a keen sympathy for the working staff and a keener dislike for pretentious official autocracy. We have the highest possible regard for his honesty and sincerity and his devotion to democracy's cause. He accepted the assignment at a great personal sacrifice and he won't be satisfied unless he get results. Furthermore, his judgment is respected by the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, who in private life is the publisher of the Chicago Daily News and knows all about Lahey's work.

A few days after Lahey's appointment, came the news that the Navy has set up an Incentives Section, under Admiral Woodward, with the object of obtaining the greatest possible cooperation between the Navy and the representatives of organized labor. This is the first time we've yet here this bureau will shape up, but its purpose is to operate in a way similar to that of Col. Ginsburgh's office in the Army.

Now these are highly constructive developments. It is still too early to stand up and cheer, but we have no hesitation in saying that the Navy is moving in the right direction. We are willing to give the Navy brass the benefit of the doubt in order to help things along and establish a basis for friendly collaboration between the Navy and the trade union movement.

AFL Says Wage Freezing Drive Threatens Collective Bargaining

Washington, D. C.—Confronted with the united opposition of organized labor to "wage freezing," this scheme of certain Government officials and employers to prevent wage increases met with a barrage of spokesmen.

The National War Labor Board rebuffed the pay-freezers when it granted wage increases ranging up to ten cents an hour to fifteen thousand employes of five companies. The War Production Board set machinery in motion for standardizing wages in the aircraft industry in cooperation with organized labor, which will mean increases for workers now receiving substandard pay. "Wage stabilization cannot be accomplished by freezing existing wage rates," declared the board in announcing its decision in the Maytag case.

Meanwhile, the American Federation of Labor declared in "Labor's Monthly Survey" that the wage stabilization program is "destructive of collective bargaining."

"The drive to 'stabilize' wages threatens to substitute decisions of government boards for free collective bargaining agreements, and to dictate a policy of no wage increases," the survey said. "To stifle collective bargaining is to destroy the free labor movement in America. Is wage policy to be decided by a government board instead of being formulated by unions and managements?

"Organized labor has made an outstanding contribution to the war effort by refraining from strikes, by trying to double and triple production, by shouldering the job of war production and by speeding fighting equipment at a rate unequaled anywhere in the world. Is this to be our reward? And is labor to be asked to further sacrifices without first seeing that other groups make equal sacrifices? Such procedure would be beyond all reason."

Pointing out that "high incomes and big profits are not yet bearing their fair share of taxation," the Survey said the scheme to put a lid on wages "is unfair discrimination against labor," adding: "To this a plan to force labor into a subordinate position in the American nation? What is the basis for thinking the millionaire will spend his income for anti-inflationary purposes and that wage earners cannot be trusted? Are only the rich to be allowed to manage their lives and incomes?

"War industries are operating with large margins and big profits and unless collective bargaining gives a fair share to all contributing to war production, an ingrowing sense of injustice begins gnawing on the will to cooperate. Inflation is by no means prevented by limiting the amount of money going to wage income. If wages are taken out of the field of negotiations between employer and employee, what will be left of collective bargaining when its most vital element is gone? To destroy collective bargaining is to strike at the basis of democracy in this country. It must be kept intact for the future. It has been maintained in Great Britain. It was abolished in Germany, unions were destroyed, the result was totalitarianism.

"The danger of inflation which threatens every nation, every family, is a very real danger. But the answer is not to impose a wage ceiling and thereby destroy collective bargaining. The answer must be full rounded, including all groups. It involves the whole question of tax equalization.

"Give labor the facts so that unions can act intelligently at the conference table.

"Give labor representation with government agencies. Representation by executive order is dangerous unless the voice of its people is heard."

In the months of 1941 the War Labor Board and Mediation Commission rejected the recommendation of President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau that no citizen be permitted to retain for his personal use an income in excess of $25,000 a year and no man and wife more than $50,000 after all state and local taxes are deducted along with 15 per cent for debts, insurance premiums or investment in Federal securities.

Green Renews Labor Peace Offer; Tobin And Dubinsky Hit CIO For Rejecting New Unity Negotiations

Teamsters' Chief Warns of Crisis

Atlantic City, N. J.—Sharp criticism of the refusal of the CIO to accept the recent proposal of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor for resumption of peace negotiations was voiced here by Daniel J. Tobin, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Mr. Tobin assailed the peace proposal made by the CIO to the federation's invitation to resume peace negotiations as impractical and lacking in sincerity.

He warned that labor faced a grave crisis at the end of the war, which might well jeopardize all its gains, and stressed the need for labor unity if the crisis was to be surmounted successfully.

The counter-proposal of the CIO, as offered through Philip Murray, president of the executive board, asked for a meeting of the CIO board and the executive council of the AFL, numbering 64 members, to discuss labor's cooperation in winning the war. The CIO proposed also that the AFL executive council invite leaders of both federations devote their efforts to supporting political candidates backing President Roosevelt and the nation's program. The CIO also made it clear that there could be no interference with the scope and structure of CIO unions as constituted now, and no plans for peace with the AFL.

Mr. Tobin said labor's rank and file leaders of both federations devote their efforts to supporting political candidates backing President Roosevelt and the nation's program. The CIO also made it clear that there could be no interference with the scope and structure of CIO unions as constituted now, and no plans for peace with the AFL.

"If they had said plainly, 'No, we will not meet you,' it would have been much more decent than the camouflaged answer they gave, which is exactly the same as a repudiation of the invitation," Mr. Tobin said.

Mr. Tobin held that peace negotiations could best be pursued by reasonably small committees, with final approval of any agreement being left to conventions of the respective organizations. He assailed the CIO suggestion that the representatives of the two groups meet to discuss more effective labor cooperation in the war as a specious excuse and an attempt "to hide behind the flag." Both organizations, he pointed out, already were doing their utmost to help the nation to victory and might be expected to continue to do so.

"The main thing that should be kept in sight by the men of labor—unless they are selfishly trying to protect their jobs or unless they are so ambitious for their leadership—is that after this struggle is ended, organized labor and the freedom throughout the world are liable to be destroyed," Mr. Tobin said.

The labor market will be glutted with human beings offering themselves at any price they can get in order to get money to buy enough to eat. What is left of civilization may be confronted with a mild form of revolution.

"Whatever hope we have is through a solid, united trade union organization, which apparently does not at this time seem possible, judging by the position taken by the CIO leadership."

AFL President Says Unity Will Promote Workers' Cause; Speed War Effort

New York City.—"In two fervent addresses," President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called for immediate action to bring about labor unity.

He expressed keen disappointment over the rejection by the CIO of the AFL offer to renew peace negotiations at once. Actual merger of the two organizations is vital, he said, to promote the interests of American workers and to consolidate labor's aid to the nation's victory drive.

Mr. Green's first appeal was made before the convention of the Pattern Makers League of North America in the Hotel Astor. Later he addressed delegates to the biennial convention of the International Jewelry Workers Union in the Riverside Plaza Hotel.

Mr. Green said the AFL had reached a record high of 6,000,000 members and he emphasized that it was a "paid-up and not a claimed or fictitious membership." The CIO, he charged, was split and divided and added that "the AFL is a pretty lively corpse, although according to some people it was dead and buried in 1935."

"We have always felt that labor could best serve itself by a strong united union," Mr. Green told the pattern makers. "Division and discord weaken labor. We have never stopped organizing to those who left us in 1935 in the hope we'd come to the house of labor and occupy the same rooms that are waiting them, as the return of the prodigal son. There will be no recriminations if they come back home.

"Our organization is large and forget-in one reason the AFL is united as never before. I hope eventually there will be a rising tide which I detect in the ranks of the rebel rival movement will compel their leaders to sit down and a conference table like men and make an honest effort to bring about a united labor movement in the United States."

Without referring to the CIO leaders by name, Mr. Green pointed to the dispute between Philip Murray, CIO president, and John L. Lewis, former president, as having reached the "name-calling" stage, while the AFL, he declared, was working on the critical post-war period arrives.

"Confronted with a multitude of problems of economic reconstruction and social readjustment and facing constant threats to its standards, and relentless attempts to nullify its gains and to undermine its position, labor will need more than ever before a divided house, but a truly united movement which can speak as one voice, formulate one coherent policy and act as one body in defense of its vital needs and interests."

Green Urges New Front In Europe In Appeal For Russian War Relief

New York City.—Before a wildly cheering audience that thronged Madison Square Garden, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor urged that the United Nations open a second front in Europe "at the earliest possible moment."

Mr. Green's plea at a rally of distinguished speakers at the rally who pleaded for aid to Russian War Relief, Inc., of the AFL and CIO, declaring workers already have contributed more than $1,000,000 to this cause "but that is just a tiny drop in the bucket to what they will give."

"This is a people's war," he declared. "The people of America and the people of Russia are in the same boat. They are going to contribute generously, just as they will share the glory of victory triumphantly."

Striking a grim note, Mr. Green said:

"Our victory message tonight to the unwilling slaves of Hitler in Germany and in the conquered nations is 'It won't be long.'

"And to the brave and unconquerable people of Russia we say this word: 'Keep up the good fight for help and more is coming!'

"In the meantime, American workers serving on the home production front are doing their share to speed victory. In all our experience I have never witnessed a more patriotic devotion to duty. The millions of American workers are on the job and they are accomplishing production miracles every day. The goals set for them in this cause."

I.L.G.W.U. Demands Labor Peace

Atlantic City, N. J.—The general executive board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL, called for peace negotiations between the AFL and CIO "without further delay."

The board criticized at length the CIO's rejection of a proposal by the AFL Executive Council for resumption of conferences pointing to labor unity. The board's resolution said:

"The CIO has voiced for a different attitude toward labor peace than the CIO under its present leadership. The arrogant the heroic resistance of the Russian Army with unbounded admiration. The ILGWU has great respect for the accomplishments of these democratic able fighters is overshadowed by our admiration for the spirit and courage people. Hitler's Fifth Column found no traitors in their ranks. His blitzkrieg struck no terror in their hearts. They have stood up under the worst punishment ever meted out to a civilian population anywhere and have undergone fearful suffering to defend their homes and homeland. The invading army, whipped on by tyrants, will ever defeat them.

"Our sympathy for the plight of the Russian people now finds expression in practical assistance. Our Government is rushing arms and ammunition to Russia. We can do our part by sending food, clothing and medicine to relieve the suffering of the Russian people. This is made possible through the American agency for assistance to Russian War Relief. More than a million dollars worth of supplies has been sent to Russia by this organization. Much more help is needed. I am confident that the American people will need no urging to contribute generously."

Green Commends Australian Labor For United Front Against Nazism

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor sent the following cablegram of greetings to the convention of the Australasian Council of Trade Unions at Melbourne:

Albert F. Monk, President
Australasian Council of Trade Unions
Trades Hall, Melbourne, Australia.

I am directed by my colleagues on the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, under the direction of I. M. Ornburn, is sponsoring a series of articles by outstanding scientists on the subject of proper food for diet. It is the purpose of this department to cooperate with the nutritional committee of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services.

Many labor publications printed the first of a series of articles written by Mark Graubard, Industrial Nutrition Specialist in the Defense Health and Welfare Services. Graubard is one of the nation's outstanding historians of science and has specialized in the food habits of primitive peoples and modern nations. He was professor at Columbia and Clark Universities, lecturer on science to labor unions since 1932, and is the author of several books on science and related subjects.

These articles can be obtained by writing to I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

Treasury Permits Unions To Buy $100,000 Of War Bonds Annually

Washington, D. C.—In response to numerous requests by labor unions and other organizations, the Treasury Department announced that on and after July 1 the limit for annual purchase of War Savings Bonds by organizations will be doubled to $100,000.

Hitherto, a labor organization was permitted to buy no more than $50,000 worth of Series F or Series G Bonds, or of both together in combination, in any calendar year.

In the last half of 1942 any labor union may purchase up to the $100,000 limit. The top figure includes purchases made in the first half of 1942. This means that organizations which already have bought $50,000 worth of war bonds may now buy another $50,000 worth.

The doubling of the limits on Treasury Series F and G Bonds was described by leading labor officials as "very welcome to labor organizations."

Representative Smith of Virginia Precipitates Strike Against Dairy

Washington, D. C.—Rep. Howard W. Smith of Virginia, leading Congressional foe of labor, has precipitated a strike against the Highland Farms Dairy by members of the Milk Drivers and Milk Employes Union.

On Smith's advice, C. Y. Stephens, head of the dairy, has refused to renew a closed-shop agreement with the union in defiance of the War Labor Board's policy of preserving closed-shop contracts where they already exist.

Eugene Hubbard, secretary-treasurer of the union, has been told by Stephens that Smith, a dairy farmer himself, advised against a renewal. Asked about this, Smith told Fred S. Walker, manager of the labor publication, the Trades Unionist, that he had "advised everybody from the Atlantic to the Pacific not to sign a closed-shop agreement with any union."

All of the 76 employes of the Highland Farms are members of the union. Hubbard said renewal negotiations with all the other Washington dairies, except Smith's, have been completed. Except by Smith, have been proceeding satisfactorily, and it is expected that renewals of their 1941 agreements will be made. All these other agreements provide the closed-shop arrangements.

"Congressman Smith is not only trying to destroy everything which labor has built up," Hubbard said, "but he is trying to bring out a good employer-employe relationship and create difficulties to hinder the war. Mr. Smith is turning out to be the No. 1 enemy of our all-out war effort."

AFL Legislative Representative Urges Funds to Continue C. C. C.

Washington, D. C.—Paul Scharrenberg, national legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, urged the Senate Appropriations Committee to postpone an appropriation sufficient to continue the Civilian Conservation Corps.

"Of all the so-called New Deal agencies none has rendered more satisfactory service, and has developed a better record than the C.C.C.," Mr. Scharrenberg said.

"The National and International Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have had occasional controversies with government departments and agencies with respect to vocational education, apprentice training, and related subjects.

"By contrast, it is a pleasure to state that there has been no criticism but much favorable comment upon the various activities of the C.C.C.

"We appreciate the need for economy and the elimination of non-essentials. However, we are convinced that the splendid type of work carried on by the C.C.C. is a very different category. The testimony before the House Committee supports conclusively that the C.C.C. program has been effectively correlated with other war activities.

"It is true, the C.C.C. does not train these young men to shoot. But it does train them to respect authority, to obey orders, to understand and practice personal sanitation, to sleep and eat and work with men of their own age—in other words, to make them fit for team work.

"All of this, you know, qualifies a young man for military service. There is convincing testimony upon this point in the published House Committee hearings.

"Departure per cent of the young men in C.C.C. camps are in the age group of 17 to 20 years. They are the potential fighting forces of the country.

"In addition, we feel strongly that the C.C.C. should be maintained as one of the really important agencies for the post-war or reconstruction period.

"We believe that the constructive work already performed by the C.C.C. in soil-conservation, re-forestation, and so forth, should be regarded as only the beginning of a great coordinated nation-wide program for the preservation and development of our natural resources."

Ammunition Depot Workers Put Up Ten Buildings Free For The Navy

Washington, D. C.—Ten new buildings, including four magazines for smokeless powder, four warhead magazines and two storehouses have been contributed to the nation's war effort by workers engaged in construction of the $60,000,000 Burns City, Ind., ammunition depot, the Navy Department announced.

The buildings represent a saving of $108,300 to the nation, were erected in record time, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, said, when he commissioned one of them, a microfilm storehouse, at the depot.

Workmen on the project accomplished the donation by working free on days off and speeding up their allotted work program so that they were able to devote spare hours to volunteer labor, Admiral Moreell said. Credit for some of the payless hours offset the cost of materials used in construction of the buildings.

AFL AUTO WORKERS WIN UNION LABEL ON BUSES

Kalamazoo, Mich.—A union shop contract and wage increases ranging from 2 cents an hour and an increase in vacation pay for employes in the plant of 20 cents per hour has been negotiated with the Kalamazoo Coach Corporation, Wendell Smith, AFL International Union Auto Workers of America, has announced. Other provisions of the contract, effective for the next two operating periods, a vacation bonus of 2½ per cent of the employes annual wage income, no strikes or disciplinary layoffs except by mutual agreement between the company and the union.

The agreement also provides for the use of the union label on all products. The company has a diesel engine and mobile hospital units, will produce the first union label bus in the automobile industry.

TEN-POINT WAR PROGRAM ADOPTED BY UPHOLSTERERS

Chicago, Ill.—A 10-point program for labor's cooperation in the war effort was adopted by the Golden Jubilee convention of the AFL Upholsterers International Union here.

The program, intended to preserve labor as a "vital force in the preservation of American democracy," as well as to win the war, includes:

Mass purchase of war bonds, maximum production of war materials, a voice for labor in management, labor representation in all governmental agencies, protection of civil liberties, counter-attack against anti-labor lies, conservation of vital materials, cooperation in plant conversion, and utilization of new war workers into the AFL, continuation of the fight for adequate living standards.

NUTRITION AND LABOR; RIGHT FOOD FOR WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, under the direction of I. M. Ornburn, is sponsoring a series of articles by outstanding scientists on the subject of proper food for diet. It is the purpose of this department to cooperate with the nutritional committee of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services.

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CAVITE NAVY YARD MEN'S DEPENDENTS ARE SOUGHT

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department is encountering difficulty in locating dependents of employes at the Cavite, Philippine Islands, plant who are listed as missing or prisoners of war.

Many of these dependents were transferred to the mainland before the attack by Japanese forces that resulted in the destruction of the navy yard and, are, under the provisions of Public Law 490, entitled to allotments of money due the missing employes.

Efforts by the Navy to locate these dependents is complicated by the fact that in many instances search through ordinary channels has brought to light only the address "Navy Yard, Cavite, P. I." AFL unions which know the present whereabouts of such dependents are urged to communicate with the Navy Department at once.

RADIO OFFICER RESCUED AFTER 29 DAYS ON RAFT

Harley A. Olsen, radio operator on an American ship, spent 29 days alone on a life raft in the North Atlantic after his ship had been torpedoed and sunk at night. He was picked up May 18 by a British warship in convoy and brought to Key West, Fla., where he soon recovered from the ordeal.

As soon as the ship was hit, Olsen sent out the SOS and leaped into the darkness as the ship went down. Coming to the surface he grabbed a hatch cover for support and later took possession of a raft that drifted by. When daylight came he transferred to another raft on which there was a limited supply of chocolate bars and similar edibles, first aid kits and a flash light. He made sails out of dress flags and started on his "solo" voyage. He supplemented his food supply with raw fish caught in an improvised fish net.

Progress was slow, but finally, after a month on the raft, he saw he was picked up forty miles from shore by the British trawler and landed at Key West none the worse for his tragic adventure.

Olsen hails from Portland, Oregon. He is a member of the Radio Officers Union of the AFL Commercial Telegraphers Union of North America.

UNION SENDS $5 MONTHLY TO MEMBERS IN SERVICE

New York, N. Y.—Edward White, president of the New York Photo-Engravers' Union No. 1, announced that the union has established a fund by voluntary contributions whereby each month members who are in some branch of the service will receive a post-office money order for $5. At present 92 union members in the service are receiving these money orders as a reminder that those at home are mindful of the sacrifices being made by those who are bearing arms.

Members of Local 1 and the union itself have bought war bonds to the extent of $346,108.50 to date and have set $500,000 as their goal for this year. This will mean an average of $1,500 for each member.